

Applic. No.: 10/045,835

Amdt. Dated August 27, 2004

Reply to Office action of May 20, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 3, and 7-33 remain in the application. Claims 2, 4-6, and 34-61 have been cancelled.

In item 7 on pages 3-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 34 and 37-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ek (US Pat. No. 4,506,834).

In item 8 on pages 4-5 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 34-36 and 39-61 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Nieuwkamp et al. (US Pat. No. 4,625,916).

Claims 34-61 have been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance to claims 1, 3, and 7-33 is solicited.

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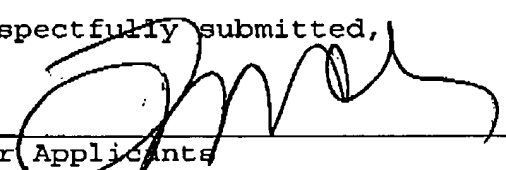
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In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$110.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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YC

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